

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-90. (Canceled).

91. (Currently Amended) A method of applying a radial force against a surface of a passageway with an expandable device, comprising:

providing an expandable device with a plurality of cells, at least one cell capable of being expanded between a stable contracted state and a stable expanded state without any stable configurations between the stable contracted state and the stable expanded state; and

radially expanding the expandable device against a surface of the passageway.

92. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 91, wherein the step of radially expanding comprises expanding the plurality of cells without axial shortening of the expandable device.

93. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 91, wherein the expandable device comprises a tubular member.

94. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 91, wherein the expandable device comprises a liner.

95. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 91, wherein the expandable device comprises thick struts coupled to thin struts.

96-112. (Canceled)

113. (Currently Amended) A method of stabilizing an unsupported section of a passageway, comprising:

providing an expandable device having one or more cells, each of the cells comprising first and second arcuate members;

placing the device at a position in the passageway while in a first stable state;

applying a radially outward force to the expandable device; and

expanding the one or more cells ~~by applying a force up~~ to a transition point defining a geometry of the one or more cells at which no additional force is necessary to further expand the one or more cells ~~from a collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration~~;

permitting the one or more cells to continue to expand beyond the transition point without the application of additional force; expandable device being configured to expand upon removal of a force beyond the transition point.

114. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 113, further comprising attaching a wrapping to the outer surface of the device.

115. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 114, wherein attaching comprises attaching an expandable material.

116. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 113, further comprising applying a deformable material to the outer surface of the bistable device.

117. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 116, wherein applying comprises applying an elastomeric material.

118. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 113, further comprising expanding the device to a first stable size and a second stable size.

119. (Currently Amended) A method for installing a liner within a tubular passageway, comprising:

providing an expandable device with a plurality of bistable cells, each of the bistable cells comprising first and second arcuate members, each cell capable of assuming a stable collapsed configuration and a stable expanded configuration without any stable configurations between the stable collapsed configuration and the stable expanded configuration, the expandable device having a generally tubular shape; and

surrounding the expandable device with an expandable liner element attached to an outer surface of the device.

120. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 119, further comprising:

placing the expandable device at a position within the tubular passageway while in a first stable state; and

expanding the expandable device into a second stable state to hold the liner element against an inner diameter of the tubular passageway.

121. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 119, wherein the first arcuate member comprises a thin strut and the second arcuate member is a thick strut.

122. (Previously Presented) A method of isolating a portion of a passageway, comprising:

inserting within the passageway an expandable multistable device formed by one or more of cells that permit the expandable device to be selectively actuated between a contracted state and at least one expanded state, each of the cells comprising first and second arcuate members;

expanding the one or more cells from a stable collapsed configuration to a stable expanded configuration, wherein there are no stable configurations between the stable collapsed configuration and the stable expanded configuration; and

isolating a portion of the passageway with the expandable device.

123-126. (Canceled)

127. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 122, wherein the first and second arcuate members comprises a wave shape in the contracted state.

128. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 122, wherein the step of expanding occurs without axial shortening of the expandable multistable device.

129. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 122, wherein the first arcuate member is more flexible than the second arcuate member.

130. (Currently Amended) A method of expanding an expandable device in a passage way, comprising:

providing an expandable device having at least one cell, the at least one cell comprising a plurality of first and second arcuate members, the second arcuate members being more pliable than the first arcuate members;

positioning the expandable device in a passage way; [[and]]

applying a radially outward force to the expandable device;

expanding the at least one cell to a transition point defining a geometry of the at least one cell beyond which no additional force is needed to further expand the least one cell; and

permitting the at least one cell to continue to expand beyond the transition point without the application of additional force

transitioning at least some of the second arcuate members from a first stable collapsed position to a second stable expanded position, wherein no stable positions exist between the first stable collapsed position and the second stable expanded position.

131. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 130, wherein each of the second arcuate members comprise a wave shape in the first stable position.

132. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 130, wherein the step of ~~transitioning~~ expanding comprises expanding the expandable device radially outward.

133. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 130, wherein the expandable device is a medical device.

134. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 91, further comprising inserting a portion of the expandable device into a body of a patient.

135. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 113, further comprising inserting a portion of the expandable device into a body of a patient.

136. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 119, further comprising inserting a portion of the expandable device into a body of a patient.

137. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 122, wherein the passageway is in a body of a patient.

138. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 130, further comprising inserting a portion of the expandable device into a body of a patient.

139. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 113, wherein the device has a generally tubular shape.

140. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 119, further comprising locating multiple bistable devices in the passageway such that the ends of the adjacent bistable devices overlap and form a continuation of the liner element against the inner diameter of the tubular passageway.

141. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 113, wherein the device is a single unit cell device.

142. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 130, further comprising applying a radially outward force to the expandable device.